

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

July 21, 2014

The Honorable Katherine Hammack
Assistant Secretary of the Army
Installations, Energy & Environment
110 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0110

Dear Assistant Secretary Hammack:

I appreciate you taking the time to meet last Thursday with state and local leaders from Louisiana in my office to hear our concerns about the danger posed by the more than 15 million pounds of M-6 propellant at Camp Minden abandoned by the Explo Company. I am encouraged that the Army agreed to come to the table and discuss a path forward for cleaning up and destroying those explosive materials.

Thursday afternoon, I received notice from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that after considering all of the facts, it is standing by its March 18 Order for the Army to take responsibility for the cleanup at Camp Minden. That Order becomes official today, and requires that the Army notify EPA of its intent to comply with the Order within 5 calendar days.

"After full and fair consideration of the points raised by the Army in the conference and written materials, I conclude that the management of hazardous and solid waste at Camp Minden may present an imminent and substantial endangerment, and that the Order issued is necessary and appropriate to abate the endangerment," Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator at the EPA wrote in the letter accompanying the Order.

I agree with Assistant Administrator Giles's assessment, and I urge the Army to notify EPA of its intent to live up to its responsibility to remove these explosive materials from Camp Minden. The time has passed for arguing over who should clean up this mess. It is now time for the Army to move forward and give the residents of North Louisiana the much-deserved peace of mind that there is no longer a ticking time bomb in their backyard.

If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator